

Message Text

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ACTION PPT-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 SCS-06 /019 W
-----114437 221041Z /17

R 220835Z FEB 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
SECSTATE WASHDC 9122
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CPAS, CASC
SUBJECT: SECOND PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL TO PRC

1. THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS THAT PRC HAS RELAXED ITS ATTITUDE CONCERNING ROC VISA IN PPT AND THAT ROC VISA IN PPT OF WOULD-BE TRAVELLER NO LONGER PRECLUDES ENTRY INTO PRC. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THIS, HONG KONG OFFICE OF CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE (CTS) INFORMED US THAT PERSONS WHOSE PPTS REFLECT TRAVEL TO ROC CAN ENTER PGY WITHOUT NEED OF NEW OR SECOND PPT. THIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS IN HONG KONG WHO HAVE REPORTED THEY ENCOUNTERED NO DIFFICULTY IN ENTERING PRC FOR BUSINESS OR TOURISM DESPITE ROC STAMPS IN THEIR PASSPORTS.

2. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOW LEARNED FROM RESIDENT AMCITS IN HONG KONG THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTY FROM ROC AUTHORITIES UPON ARRIVAL TAIPEI OR KAOHSUNG IF THEY HAVE PRC STAMP IN PPT. ACCOUNTS ARE SIMILAR IN THAT AMCIT IS TAKEN ASIDE AND INTERROGATED AND/OR LECTURED AS TO SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH ROC VIEWS SUCH TRAVEL. WHEN WE CHECKED WITH CHUNG HWA
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TRAVEL SERVICE IN HONG KONG (ROC COUNTERPART OF CTS), WE WERE MET WITH REITERATION ROC'S PUBLIC STANCE ON ISSUE, I.E., TRAVEL TO PRC DOES NOT IN ANY WAY PREJUDICE TRAVEL TO TAIWAN. DESPITE THIS, WE SEE NO REASON FOR AMCITS TO MANUFACTURE ACCOUNTS OF DIFFICULTIES IN TAIWAN AND DEPT MAY WISH TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH ROC.

3. APPEARS THAT CONGEN WILL REMAIN IN SECOND PPT BUSINESS (APPROXIMATELY 10 PERCENT OF TOTAL PPT ISSUANCE) WITH MOST TRAVELLERS PREFERRING SECOND PPT FOR PRC TRAVEL UNTIL WORD GETS AROUND OF PRC'S RELAXED AITTUTDE. HOWEVER, WE CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE OCCASIONAL REQUEST THAT WE ISSUE SECOND PPT VALID ONLY FOR ROC. DOES DEPT OR AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PERCEIVE ANY OBJECTION TO SUCH ISSUANCE? PENDING REPLY WE WILL CONTINUE TO ISSUE SECOND PASSPORTS VALID ONLY FOR PRC.

4. ONE ACCOUNT WE HEARD CONCERNED ROK. MCIT BUSINESSMAN WHO RECENTLY ARRIVED IN ROK WITH PRC STAMP IN PPT WAS GIVEN DIFFICULT TIME AT AIRPORT AND QUESTIONED AT LENGTH PAST CURFEW HOUR. THIS REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN HIS ARREST FOR CURFEW VIOLATION WHEN HIS CAB SUBSEQUENTLY ENTERED SEOUL.

5. ADDRESSEE COMMENTS ARE REQUESTED, ESPECIALLY TAIPEI AND SEOUL, WITH RESPECT TO DIFFICULTIES MCITS WHOSE PPTS SHOW TRAVEL PRC ARE LIKELY ENCOUNTER UPON ARRIVAL IN ROC AND ROK.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HONGK02354
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780079-0927
Format: TEL
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780229/aaaaayjh.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ba282bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PPT
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3524963
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECOND PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL TO PRC
TAGS: CPAS, CASC
To: TAIPEI STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba282bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014